

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 02258 080936Z

43

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5814

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2258

E.O. 11652: XGDS-(2)

TAGS: MARR, MCAP, PFOR, TZ

SUBJECT: TANZANIAN EXHIBITS LARGEST MILITARY DISPLAY IN ITS
HISTORY

1. SUMMARY. SOME 8,000 TANZANIAN MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED JULY 5 IN LARGEST ARMED FORCES EXHIBITION IN HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT TANZANIA. GROUND UNITS OF TANZANIAN PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCE (TPDF) LOOKED VERY SHARP WHILE PEOPLE'S MILITIA UNITS WERE GENERALLY RAG TAG IN APPEARANCE. HIGHLIGHT OF EVENT, WHICH WAS PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT NYERERE AND ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA, WAS FLY-BY OF 13 CHINESE-PROVIDED MIG-19 AIRCRAFT. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF COMMEMORATION CEREMONIES FOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TANU JULY 7, MILITARY PARADE AND FLY-BY TOOK PLACE AT DAR ES SALAAM NATIONAL STADIUM JULY 5. EVENT WAS PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT NYERERE AND ATTENDED BY FIRST VP JUMBE, PM KAWAWA, MEMBERS OF CABINET, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DIPLOMATIC CORP, GENERAL PUBLIC, AND SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDING PRESIDENT KAUNDA
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PAGE 02 DAR ES 02258 080936Z

OF ZAMBIA AND FOREIGN MINISTER KARL-I-BOND OF ZAIRE. IN

ADDITION TPDF REPORTEDLY INVITED MILITARY DELEGATIONS FROM PRC, NORTH KOREA, ROMANIA, INDIA, SOMALIA, ZAMBIA, ZAIRE, AND CANADA.

3. EMB POL OFF OBSERVED PRC MILITARY CONTINGENT OF ABOUT 40 PERSONS WHICH PROBABLY INCLUDES SOME OFFICERS STATIONED IN TANZANIA. DELEGATION IS LED BY LI TA, REPORTEDLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA). DELEGATION INCLUDES TAN HAN CHANG, DEPUTY COMMANDANT OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL ACADEMY OF PLA. NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION OF ABOUT FIVE OFFICERS IS REPORTEDLY LED BY LT. GEN. JANG JONG HWAN, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENSE. ROMANIA IS REPRESENTED BY A GENERAL AND A COLONEL ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY OFFICER.

4. DISPLAY CONSTITUTED LARGEST KNOWN CONCENTRATION OF TANZANIAN MILITARY FORCE SINCE INDEPENDENCE. INCLUDING HONOR GUARD AND MILITARY/POLICE BANDS, MORE THAN 8,000 PERSONNEL TOOK PART IN EXHIBITION. ALL UNITS IN MARCH-BY CONSISTED OF 67 PERSONS, INCLUDING 3 GROUP LEADERS. TOTAL OF 117 ARMED UNITS PARTICIPATED: 40 TPDF GROUND UNITS (2 OF WHICH WERE WOMEN'S UNITS); 11 MARINE, POLICE, AND PRISON UNITS; 16 NATIONAL SERVICE UNITS; AND 50 PEOPLE'S MILITIA UNITS. TWO UNARMED YOUNG PIONEER UNITS FROM ZANZIBAR ALSO PARTICIPATED. MOST COMMON WEAPON DISPLAYED WAS BAYONETTED SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE WHICH WE BELIEVE IS CHINESE-MADE 7.62. MIINORITY OF UNITS, E.G. 7 OUT OF 40 TPDF GROUND UNITS, CARRIED CHINESE MADE AK-47 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. WOMEN GENERALLY CARRIED AK-47'S. NO OTHER GROUND EQUIPMENT WAS ON DISPLAY.

5. HIGHLIGHT OF EVENT WAS FLY-BY WHICH INCLUDED FIRST PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF CHINESE-PROVIDED MIG-19S. DISPLAY INCLUDED 4 POLICE HELICOPTERS, 3 CHEROKEES, 3 CESNAS, 4 CARRIBOUS, AND 13 MIG-19S. OTHERWISE SUBDUED CHINESE MILITARY DELEGATION WAS VISIBLY ELATED WHEN 13 MIGS MADE FIRST OF TWO FLY-BYS. ONLY 12 MIGS PASSED OVER STADIUM DURING SEDOND FLY-BY. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, LT. COL. J. LUHANGA PILOTED LEAD MIG. MIGS FLEW IN WELL EXECUTED FORMATION.

6. COMMENT: MILITARY DISPLAY WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 DAR ES 02258 080936Z

COUNTRY WHICH HAS TRIED TO DOWNPLAY BUILDUP OF MILITARY FORCES. ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KENYA, WHO SAT NEXT TO EMBOFF, COMMENTED WITH AMAZEMENT NEAR END OF MARCH-BY, "THERE ARE MANY." SHEER MAGNITUDE OF PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING MUST HAVE LEFT INDELIBLE MEMORY WITH TANZANIANS PRESENT. ALL MARCHING UNITS EXCEPT PEOPLE'S MILITIA LOOKED SHARP AND WELL DRILLED. MILITIA UNITS, WHICH CONSTITUTED NEARLY HALF OF ARMED UNITS PRESENT, WERE RAG TAG AND SLOPPY LOOKING. MAJOR

QUESTION IS RAISED CONCERNING PILOTS OF MIG-19S. SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF TANZANIANS HAVE COMPLETED PILOT TRAINING IN PRC
AND THEORETICALLY ARE CAPABLE OF FLYING PLANES. ACCORDING
TO WEST GERMAN EMBOFF, HOWEVER, ONLY SIX TANZANIAN PILOTS
ARE FULLY PREPARED TO PILOT MIGS AND EVEN THESE SIX NEED
MORE PRACTICE. HE ADDED HE WAS TOLD BY TPDF AIR WING
OFFICER THAT MIGS WERE FLOWN BY CHINESE ON JULY 5.
CARTER

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